

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

October 27th, 2023

Vice Admiral Joanna M. Nunan
Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, New York 11024

Superintendent Nunan,

We write to you today with concerns about the new gender transition policy at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Superintendent Instruction 2023-20, circulated by your office on October 13th, 2023.

In this instruction, you define the “Real Life Experience (RLE)” period as the “phase in the gender transition process during which the student begins living socially in the gender role consistent with their self-identified gender,” and the “necessary precursor to certain medical procedures, including gender transition surgery.” According to your document, Midshipmen in the “Real Life Experience phase” should be “using [their] self-identified gender berthing, bathroom and shower facilities.”

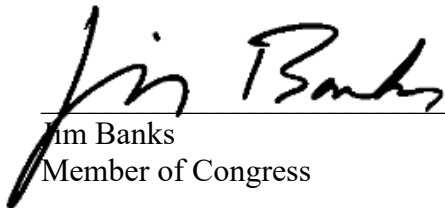
The instruction gives the Superintendent the authority to issue “Exception to Policy” (ETP) waivers that give Midshipmen in the RLE Phase, which includes biological men who may not have even begun the medical transition process, access to the opposite sex’s showers, bathrooms, and living quarters. Biologically male Midshipmen who receive an ETP waiver are also authorized to compete in women’s sports.

We are greatly worried about the impact this policy will have on recruiting young women to attend our nation’s service academies as well as the safety and comfort of current female Midshipmen.

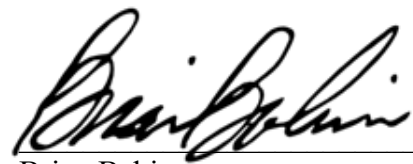
Additionally, we are disturbed by the policy guidelines that would allow Midshipmen who identify as transgender during their third or fourth year at USMMA to receive a medical waiver from their obligated service. This creates a dangerous avenue for exploiting our nation’s prestigious service academies.

Please provide our offices with answers to the following questions by Tuesday, October 31, 2023:

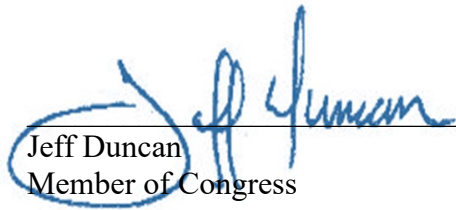
- What role does the USMMA play in “jointly developing” gender transition plans for Midshipmen?
- Since gender dysphoria is classified as a “medically disqualifying condition,” why is the Superintendent responsible for reviewing ETP waivers instead of a medical professional?
- What are the USMMA’s guidelines for issuing a medical waiver for medically disqualifying conditions?
 - Why is gender dysphoria considered a “medically disqualifying condition”?
- Why are ETP waivers allowed for Midshipmen who want to identify as the opposite gender, but not granted to Midshipmen who want to return to identifying with their biological sex?




Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



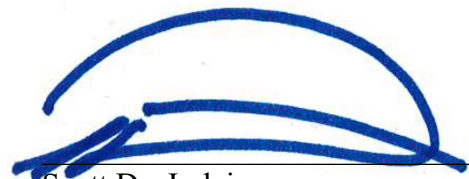
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress




Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress




Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale
Member of Congress